

REMARKS

The Examiner maintained his rejection of claims 1-24 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,487,396 to Sassi in view of U.S. Patent 5,999,831 to Itoh and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,529,749 to Hayes. Applicant respectfully disagrees and offers the following remarks.

In the attached "Amendments to Claims," claims 1, 6, 13, 19, 21, and 22 have been amended to explicitly claim that the hinge functions as an antenna. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments.

As conceded by the Examiner in the Final Office Action, neither Sassi nor Hayes teach a hinge mechanism comprising an antenna. Further, as conceded by the Examiner, only Itoh suggests placing an antenna at a hinge portion of a portable telephone. However, as stated by the Examiner on page 5 of the Final Office Action, placing the antenna at the hinge is not the same as having a hinge that "functions as an antenna." Therefore, Itoh does not teach or suggest a hinge that functions as an antenna.

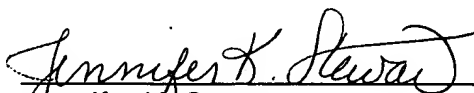
Because none of the references, alone or in combination, teach a hinge mechanism that functions as an antenna as claimed in each of the independent claims, independent claims 1, 13, 19, 21, and 22 are patentably distinct from the cited art. Further, because the independent claims are patentably distinct, dependent claims 2-12, 14-18, 20, and 23-24 are also patentably distinct. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

In light of the above arguments and amendments, Applicant submits that claims 1-24 stand in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner

reconsider the rejection and allow the application to move forward to allowance. If any issues remain unresolved, Applicant asks that the Examiner call the undersigned agent so that any such issues may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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